



CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

Student Government Association

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Appropriations Committee,

Honorable Chairs Representative Walker and Senator Bye, Honorable Vice Chairs Representatives Genga and Porter, and Senator Hartley, and Ranking Members Representative Kane and Senator Ziobron; thank you for affording me the opportunity to address you tonight. My name is Wyatt Bosworth and I'm currently a junior at Central Connecticut State University studying political science and applying to law schools as we speak. Outside of class, I have the distinct honor of representing my fellow students at CCSU on the Student Government Association, as well as the Board of Regent's Student Advisory Committee

Roughly one year ago, I testified before this very committee, and expressed the same concerns as I will tonight. Last year, CSCU was faced with an unprecedented cut of more than \$48 million. We were looking at tuition increases as high as 12% and a more than 10% reduction in fulltime faculty. Thankfully this committee restored more than half of the funds in that proposed cut, and because of that, on behalf of the more than 12,000 students at CCSU, I want to thank you.

But here we are today, and the Connecticut State College & University system is faced with yet another dangerous cut of more than 5.7% of our budget. You know the drill; if approved in full, this cut will inevitably lead to tuition hikes, more cuts in services, and reduction in full-time staff. Instead of boring you with talking points, I'll instead share a story I don't share often.

The first time I visited CCSU was the day I registered for classes. Following a poor performance in high school, I didn't get accepted into any of the colleges I dreamed of attending. I originally attended Central because of two reasons; 1.) the benefit of getting an affordable in-state tuition and 2.) because I got the chance to live away from hometown of Danbury (sorry WestConn). During my first semester at Central, all I could think about was transferring to UCONN. I made it my mission to prove the admissions office wrong and get accepted in the school I dreamed of going to. I worked hard, got great grades, and ended up getting accepted as a transfer student during the second semester. At that point, that was the proudest moment in my life. However, I decided not to transfer and here is why that decision remains one of the best I have made in my entire life:

At more than 12,000 students strong, CCSU offers a college community unlike any other I've heard about or experienced for myself. We have over 100 on-campus clubs and organizations, a low student-to-teach ratio that encourages students to personally know their professors and have a meaning inside the classroom, a robust study-abroad program, an open and accessible administration, and most importantly, a student body that collectively is made up of a first generation, lower to middle class,

ethnically and culturally diverse group of inspiring and capable men and women. During my time at CCSU, I've run for public office, I've been involved in numerous clubs, I've excelled in the exceptional learning environment provided by my department and Honors Program, I've made life-long friendships with both professors and classmates, and most importantly, I've matured and grown as a human being.

The time has come for this legislature to stop treating CSU as a second class institution of public higher learning. We are three times the size of UCONN. While we don't have a good sports program and we most certainly aren't the flagship, that doesn't mean that our system doesn't offer the state a tremendous economic incentive to fund adequately. 90% of our students live in Connecticut, while more than 80% of us will go on to live and work in Connecticut following graduation. We offer the cheapest public option for Connecticut residents. I'm not knocking UCONN when I say this, but I want this committee to understand that when you fund an institution correctly, and you give them the resources and help they need to grow, an institution like UCONN can exist. We are CSU, we are 90,000 strong, and we deserve to be given the chance to grow and continue to offer affordable and high quality higher education in Connecticut. Thank you.

Wyatt Bosworth
CCSU Student Senator
SAC Representative, Board of Regents